

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CPR-01 SS-15 NSC-05 RSC-01 /033 W

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R 190110Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4514

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

UNCLAS CANBERRA 7546

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, AS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR
SYDNEY AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

FOR EA/ANP LEO MOSER FROM AMBASSADOR

1. THE SYDNEY BRANCH OF THE AAA IS EMBARKED ON AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM FOR THE BICENTENNIAL AND IS EFFECTIVELY USING THIS OCCASION TO INFUSE NEW ENTHUSIASM INTO ITS MEMBERSHIP. THE EMBASSY AND CONSULATE GENERAL SYDNEY ARE IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH AAA ON THESE EFFORTS.

2. ONE UNIQUE AND COMMENDABLE NEW PROGRAM IS THE "WELCOME AMERICANS COMMITTEE" WHICH IS UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MR. KEN LEECH. THIS CONSISTS OF SUNDAY AFTERNOON GET TOGETHERS AT THE ASSOCIATION HEADQUARTERS OF 50-100 PERSONS WITH ALL AMERICANS VISITING SYDNEY WELCOME. LEECH CONTACTS HOTELS AND AIRLINES TO GET THE WORD TO AMERICANS, PICKS THEM UP AT THEIR HOTELS AND BRINGS THEM TO THE HEADQUARTERS. HIS EFFORTS ARE MOST PRAISEWORTHY AND IN KEEPING WITH THE HEARTWARMING WELCOME THE AAA EXTENDED TO U.S. SERVICEMEN ON R&R IN AUSTRALIA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

3. THE ASSOCIATION HAS ASKED ME TO SEE IF A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT FORD COULD BE SENT FOR THE WELCOME AMERICANS CHRISTMAS MEETING ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22. A TEXT OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PROPOSED MESSAGE FOLLOWS:

QUOTE TO THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
AND THEIR GUESTS BOTH AUSTRALIAN AND AMERICAN GATHER-
ED TOGETHER SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, WITH CHAIRMAN KEN
LEECH AND THE WELCOME AMERICANS COMMITTEE: CHRISTMAS
GREETINGS. IT IS WONDERFUL TO THINK OF YOU ALL
SHARING FELLOWSHIP DOWN UNDER. THAT IS SURELY THE
TRUE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS WHICH AUSTRALIANS HAVE
SHARED OVER THE YEARS WITH MANY AMERICAN SERVICEMEN
FAR FROM HOME. WITH VERY BEST WISHES. UNQUOTE

IF THIS COULD BE ARRANGED IT WOULD BE A FINE BOOST FOR
THE AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION, AND I STRONGLY EN-
DORSE THEIR REQUEST.
GREEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, HOLIDAYS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974CANBER07546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740333-0488
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741132/aaaabavg.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by chicheje>; APPROVED <12 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FOR SYDNEY AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.
TAGS: PFOR, AS, AAA, (FORD, GERALD R), (LEECH, KEN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005